


MEMORANDUM

Missouri Department of Transportation Design Central Office

TO: All Districts, All Divisions, MAPA

FROM: Diane Heckemeyer 

DATE: May 13, 2005

SUBJECT: Contract Level Course Program for FY06

As MoDOT moves forward with its top priority – completion of Elements 1, 2 and 3 of the “Smoother, Safer, Sooner” initiative – some consideration needs to be given to upcoming Contract Level Course projects. Due to the volume of asphalt work that has been added to the market, please consider the following options for completing the Contract Level Course program for FY06. These items, with the exception of the extended completion date, are also good guidance for the program in years to come.

- Concentrate level course routes in one or two areas of your district. A good rule of thumb for haul distance from the nearest prospective plant location is a maximum of 25 miles. Consider a rotating level course plan that will prevent having a “shotgun” effect of level course locations when put on a map. Rural districts especially will be able to get more miles of level course work completed in the long run due to better prices from more concentrated work that minimizes the amount of plant and equipment moves by the contractors.
- Coordinate projects with other districts. The logical termini for a project will most likely cross district lines. Again, to limit plant and equipment moves, completing a single route for a longer distance will help to stretch the dollars and increase competition.
- Extend completion dates for FY06 level course work to October 1, 2007 if your district is saturated with Smooth Roads work. This should increase competition and will shift some asphalt work out of the '06 year. Districts that CO considers saturated with Smooth Roads work are: D1, D4, D5, D6, D7, D8 and D10. If desired a delayed notice to proceed can also be used if that will help the district organize resources for administration.
- Have a contingency plan for use of Contract Level Course dollars for FY06. If project bids come in excessive and are rejected by the Commission they will not be re-let again as asphalt projects in FY06. Contract Level Course dollars may be used for other projects such as chip seals, microsurfacing, bridge deck overlays, bridge repairs, etc. on similar routes. For this reason any Contract Level Course work should be let by December 2005 to allow time for alternate use of the funds.
- If your District would like to have a planning meeting with the contractors in your area let your Design Technical Support Engineer or the CO Estimating Section know and we can help you obtain the bidders' view of the program.

Thanks for your patience regarding the level course projects during the next couple of years as MoDOT tries to obtain the best value possible for the CLC program while accomplishing the goal of Smoother, Safer, Sooner.